

What I would like to do this evening is just for a few minutes here discuss some things I think are very important to the future of our country as well, and to say that a couple of years ago about this time there was a debate going on in this country over the airwaves about the Republican so-called commitment to destroy Medicare, and we heard over and over on the airwaves, from candidates who were seeking elective office, that this somehow was going to come to pass, and here we are two years later.

Of course, after that, when we came back in January, when those of us who were freshmen came and joined the Congress, and then last summer we passed the balanced budget agreement and believe it or not the plan at that time that was characterized as destroying Medicare then became our plan to save Medicare. A lot of our friends on the other side, who ran campaigns in the fall of 1996 attacking Republican candidates for what they perceived as a plan to destroy Medicare, ended up voting for a plan that then became a plan to save Medicare and actually spent less on Medicare than the very plan that they spent all of 1996 attacking.

Now, I just use that as an illustration to point out some of the hypocrisy that you are going to hear, and I want the American people to listen very carefully to this because the same thing is going to happen again this year. We have already heard it start.

On Saturday, we passed historic legislation to set aside money for Social Security. Ninety percent, or \$1.4 trillion, of the projected surplus that will come into this country is going to be walled off and set aside to save Social Security. That is a commitment that we have made.

The balance, the remaining 10 percent, or about \$80 billion, is going to be used to bring tax relief to the American people.

Already our friends on the other side have been relentlessly attacking the Republican plan to destroy Social Security, and I just want those who are watching this evening across America, the taxpayers of this country, the people who should care very deeply about this issue, to know one thing. You are going to hear over and over and over again repeated a parade of speakers on this floor in this House, and on the airwaves this fall, about attempts to kill Social Security. I want you to know they are flatly untrue.

What we are trying to do is to save Social Security, not only for the current generation but for generations to come, and that is why we are taking advantage of this historic opportunity to dedicate and set aside \$1.4 trillion of that surplus to save Social Security.

What I would like to do this evening is talk about the other 10 percent, and that is those dollars that we have committed to give back to the taxpayer some of their hard earned money. We did it in a way on Saturday with a vote that was historic because it will deliver

tax relief to families by relieving the marriage penalty. It will also allow small savers to set aside more in terms of dividends and interest and to protect that from income tax and lessen their tax liability there, but also for the farmers and ranchers of this country, and in my State, who are very near and dear to my heart.

This is such a wonderful plan for agriculture. If we think about the things that are accomplished in this tax relief bill and the problems that we are facing in agriculture today, we have an economic disaster in rural America. We have historically low prices. We have a price crisis, and we need to do everything that we can to help our farmers recover.

We are going to vote upon an ag assistance package later on hopefully this week that will provide some needed assistance out there, but at the same time we can couple that with tax relief that will put some dollars into their pocket.

One of the things that we did is we lessened the death tax and so that those farmers and ranchers who want to pass on their operation to the next generation will be able to do so without facing the undertaker and the IRS at the same time.

We also allow for the deductibility of health insurance premiums for self-employed people, farmers and ranchers and small business people who can benefit tremendously from being able to deduct health insurance premiums that they are paying.

There is a provision in there that makes permanent income averaging for farmers and ranchers who have very volatile income. Some years it is up. Some years it is down. This allows them to spread it out over time and thereby lessen their tax liability.

There is a loss carryback provision that allows farmers who have had losses in the last couple years to offset those losses against more profitable years and therefore get a tax refund this year. There are expensing provisions that they can use again to help them reduce their tax liability.

This is an incredible package for the farmers and ranchers of this country and it is, again, as I said earlier, done in a way that allow us to accomplish tax relief and yet make a long-term commitment to saving Social Security for the future of our country.

These are important provisions in this bill. I was proud to support it. I hope that we can move this bill forward and pass it in the Senate and have the President sign it.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair and not the viewing audience.

THE DISTINGUISHED CAREER OF REPRESENTATIVE LEE HAMILTON OF INDIANA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. VISCLOSKY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to stand before the Members of the House tonight in a special order devoted to honoring our colleague, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. HAMILTON) who will be retiring from this institution after serving for 34 years.

The gentleman from Indiana (Mr. HAMILTON) has had a distinguished career, and I would note that literally, depending on the day the 106th Congress is sworn in next year, Mr. HAMILTON may also hold the historical record of having served in this House longer than anyone else in the history of the State of Indiana.

I am here tonight, and I know my colleagues are here tonight, not because of the quantity of the service of the gentleman from Indiana but the quality of the man and the quality of his service; the quality of his mind, which is exceptional; the quality of his service. He has been selfless every day of those 34 years as far as his commitment to the American people and to those who he has served internationally; and the quality of his person, his ethical conduct, his commitment to his God, to his family and, again, to the people that he has represented in the Ninth District of Indiana.

Seventeen years ago, as a young man, I decided to run for the United States Congress, and at that time the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. HAMILTON) gave me a gift. He gave me the gift of his intelligence and he gave me the gift of his support.

Following my election, 14 years ago, as a Member, the gentleman from Indiana gave me additional gifts: The gift of his patronage in the House of Representatives and the gift of his counsel.

□ 1945

To all of us, he has given the gift of his time, whether as chairman of the Joint Economic Committee, where he attempted to ensure that every American had the fairest chance for the best job in the world's strongest economy, whether it was chairing the House Intelligence Committee to ensure that our Nation was secure above all others, or whether it was his distinguished service on the Committee on International Relations as chair and ranking member, where he ensured that the voice of those least fortunate or those most in danger was always heard.

But on a personal note, I must emphasize that what I will miss most about LEE HAMILTON is our extended conversations about the Indiana University football team. I say that simply because LEE was the athlete I never was and never will be and would point out to those who might not know that

while at Central High School, LEE was best known for his skill on the basketball court. And as a senior he led his team to the final game of the State basketball tournament in Indiana before being sidelined with an injury. Though Central lost the championship, LEE was honored with the Trester award given to the senior in the final four who best exemplifies excellence in both athletics and scholarship.

In recognition of his athletic accomplishments, LEE was inducted into the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame in 1982, certainly a very rarefied group. I would simply, in my remarks, wish LEE, his wife, Nancy, and their children Debbie, Tracy and Doug, every joy and every happiness that life has to offer.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a colleague and mentor, LEE HAMILTON.

LEE will retire this year after thirty-four years of distinguished service in the House of Representatives. The leadership LEE demonstrates in his roles as the senior member of our delegation and the Chairman of the International Relations Committee are only the most recent examples of greatness in a career that spans decades.

When I first ran for Congress in 1984, LEE was a confidant and a valuable resource. When I won the Democratic primary, LEE became my patron. And, after I became a Member of Congress, LEE's opinions on policy and the issues of the day were among the first I sought. Needless to say, this House will be a different place for me, without LEE HAMILTON.

The one thing that each of us has a finite amount of, is time. One thing LEE has always been ready to share with me, and each member, is his time. On both the professional and personal levels, LEE never hesitates to lend an ear and impart sage counsel.

I would point out that it is not just his friends and colleagues for whom LEE makes time. LEE has always striven to make sure the voices of those less fortunate, in our nation, and throughout the world, are heard. As Chairman of the Joint Economic Committee, he also worked to make sure that we have the strongest of economies in this country, and that every American has the chance to get a good job.

When you think of LEE, you think of someone who is judicious, deliberate, and serious about his work, without being serious about himself.

Aside from his interest in international affairs, LEE is deeply committed to the people of Indiana's ninth congressional district, the state of Indiana, and this nation. Now, LEE will take his commitment to public service to Indiana University, where he can keep a closer eye on the I.U. football program.

Congressman HAMILTON will be dearly missed in the counsels of government everywhere. He is a gentleman in the truest sense of the word. I wish LEE, Nancy, and their family continued success and happiness in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN), chairman of the Committee on International Relations.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is with mixed emotions that I rise to join in this special order for our good friend and colleague from Indiana, the rank-

ing Democratic minority member of our Committee on International Relations, LEE HAMILTON.

On the one hand I am delighted with this opportunity to pay tribute to a Member of Congress who has exemplified and personified the highest standards of public service to our Nation for a period that extended over more than a third of our century.

I want to thank our colleague, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON), distinguished chairman of our Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, and the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. VISCLOSKEY) for taking the initiative in arranging for this special order this evening.

On the other hand, I am saddened that this well-deserved tribute is occasioned by the fact that LEE HAMILTON has decided to retire at the end of this Congress. I say it is premature. The courage, fortitude and plain midwestern common sense that have been his trademark will be long remembered and deeply missed.

LEE was first elected to Congress in 1964 and he was already a veteran House Member of four terms when, in January of 1973, I was privileged to join him as a freshman on what was then the House Committee on Foreign Affairs in the 93rd Congress. At that time Doc Morgan of Pennsylvania was our chairman, and our good friend PETER FRELINGHUYSEN of New Jersey was our ranking Republican. But LEE became my squad leader, so to speak, as chairman of the Subcommittee on Near East and South Asia, to which I was assigned as a junior member. And so began a working relationship that has spanned more than three decades, although our joint service on that subcommittee lasted only through that Congress.

We did not serve together on the subcommittee again until 1985, when LEE HAMILTON was chairman of the Subcommittee on Europe and the Middle East and I became its ranking Republican.

You might say that since then we have been joined at the gavel.

I was privileged to serve with LEE as cochairman of the Task Force on Foreign Assistance that was established by our good friend and former chairman, Dante Fascell from Florida during the 101st Congress. The report of our task force was a groundbreaking achievement that has served as a blueprint for many of the reforms that have helped to make our foreign assistance programs and the Agency for International Development, which administers them, even more effective.

The trademark of LEE HAMILTON's service in Congress has been his thoughtful and analytical approach to foreign policy. At times we may have disagreed, but we have always been able to work together on so many important foreign policy issues.

LEE HAMILTON has been a man of candor, of conviction and integrity. His sage and deliberate counsel will long be

missed as Congress continues to take up the many complex foreign policy issues that face our Nation. We hope LEE will not be a stranger to this body.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, permit me to say to LEE HAMILTON, God bless, Godspeed, and best wishes for success and happiness to both Nancy and yourself in all of your future endeavors.

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. I yield to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. ROEMER).

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend from the northwestern part of the great State of Indiana, and I thank my friend, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON), from down south of me, more of southern Indiana, who join together in paying tribute to LEE and Nancy Hamilton. I know Nancy joins us in the gallery this evening as well, too.

I recall, Mr. Speaker, that John Quincy Adams, after he had served in the presidency, was elected to the United States Congress. When asked about his service in the United States Congress, he said that it was probably the highest honor he served, a great compliment to this distinguished institution.

I do not think it is overemphasizing anything at all when we talk about LEE HAMILTON's 34 years of service to the people of Indiana, to the people of this country, and to those who have served with him over those 34 years in this body, to say that LEE HAMILTON has lived up to those kinds of accolades and expectations laid out by John Quincy Adams.

He ranks up there with the people that I look up to and admire through the history of this country. I will talk a little bit about some of those names as I close.

I want to talk about three instances, very briefly, Mr. Speaker, that really epitomize and bring out the talents and the skills of LEE HAMILTON. First, the Iran Contra hearings. These hearings, LEE HAMILTON conducted with civility and bipartisanship. He had a tight grasp of the law, a firm understanding of how to apply it fairly, and he epitomized, I think, what we vitally need in this body today, and that is that sense of objectivity and fairness and application of the law.

Secondly, on the Persian Gulf, that was my very first vote as a freshman Member of Congress, and I looked to the distinguished gentleman from Indiana (Mr. HAMILTON) for his understanding of foreign policy, for his spirited argument on why we should wait and have sanctions apply. And I think LEE's statement that I reread a few weeks ago probably is as applicable today as it was 8 years ago.

And thirdly, I think LEE HAMILTON has overseen and contributed to some of the most fundamental changes over these 34 years to make the domestic and the foreign policy institutions that we have in this country adopt to world changes and make sure we stay in a peaceful environment and an environment that is prosperous for our people;

not an easy task at all, as we have seen such change from the Cold War to the new environment in 1998.

I do not think anybody can be a public servant and have public service as their goal without a family that supports them. I cannot think of anybody that my wife Sally looks up to more than Nancy Hamilton. Nancy's paintings adorn LEE HAMILTON's office. They are all over his office. They are beautifully done and show her talent, her skill and her commitment.

LEE and Nancy's children, Debbie and Tracy and Doug, are also in different areas that epitomize LEE and Nancy's teachings and their parental skill and their devotion to family.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, Ernest Hemingway, in John Kennedy's book *Profiles in Courage*, talked about the meaning of courage. And he defined it as grace under pressure, grace under pressure.

I do not think anything epitomizes LEE HAMILTON or Nancy Hamilton or their family more than grace, more than civility, more than helping the people of Indiana, intelligence, commitment, wit, style, charm and devotion to this great country of ours.

LEE will continue to live up to those standards and goals, as he works at the Woodrow Wilson Center and establishes a center for a better understanding of Congress at Indiana University. I think we could all use a better understanding of Congress. LEE's work is cut out for him. We wish him well. We pray for him, and we wish his family well.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON), the senior Member of the Indiana delegation.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, that means that I am now going to be the oldest.

Mr. Speaker, you can tell an awful lot about people by their children. And I regret that I never had the chance to meet LEE HAMILTON's mom and dad, because they sure raised a wonderful son. I know his brother is a minister. I have never had the pleasure of meeting him, but I understand he is a wonderful guy as well.

Let me just say that in the time that I have worked with LEE HAMILTON on the Committee on International Relations, I have not known a nicer fellow than LEE HAMILTON. Obviously, we have strong differences of opinion on issues, but LEE handles those strong differences in a way that even though you strongly differ with him, you still like him.

That is very difficult in a body such as this. Sometimes our tempers get awfully hot and we explode and we say things that we do not mean, and we even say things about our colleagues that we should not say. But LEE HAMILTON has never made that mistake. I have watched him year after year on this floor and in the committee, and he handles those issues with diplomacy and understanding and tact. And he has just been an exemplary Member of this

body and an exemplary member of the Committee on International Relations.

I, too, am a great admirer of athletic prowess, and I was talking to LEE just a few moments ago. I knew that he had won the Trester award when he was in high school back in 1908, excuse me, 1948. I am just teasing, in 1948.

And it came to my attention tonight that he was disabled in the State championship game by a torn cartilage in his knee, and they worked all afternoon trying to fix it so he could play that night, and he was only able to play about 3 or 4 minutes. With all deference to the team that won the State championship in 1948, I am confident that if LEE HAMILTON had been able to play the whole game in sound physical condition, his team would have been the State champion. But I doubt, LEE, if you would have won the Trester award had that happened.

Let me just say, once again, in closing that LEE HAMILTON will be missed by both Democrats and Republicans in this body because he is a good man. He is a kind man. He is a thoughtful man. He is a caring man. And he is a man that will be remembered by every Member who has served with him as a great Congressman.

Thank you, LEE, for all your service.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his remarks.

I yield to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA).

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding to me.

Maxwell Anderson wrote of George Washington: There are some men who lift the age they inhabit until all men walk on higher ground in that lifetime. LEE HAMILTON, by his presence, has lifted the age in which he has inhabited the House of Representatives. Perhaps the greatest comment on a person's life is the legacy one leaves behind, and LEE's legacy will be his unwavering dedication to the House and our legislative responsibilities in regard to our Nation's role in world affairs as well as domestic challenges.

□ 2000

LEE has long recognized that we must not look only inward, we must be a Nation actively engaged in the world around us. LEE has been a leader in promoting an appropriate role for Congress in the foreign policy-making process and, at the same time, educating legislators, his colleagues, on world affairs and their need to understand those issues.

He nonetheless never has forgotten his roots in the soil of Indiana. Buckeyes and Hoosiers are down to earth people, well grounded, if you will. That grounding in love of country and a profound understanding of its good people augmented LEE's ability to represent our Nation's foreign policy in Congress and overseas. Now he leaves us to embark on a new mission as Director of the Woodrow Wilson Center.

I have raised some challenges to the Wilson Center in the past few years, be-

cause I believe that the center has strayed from its mission and its dedication to serving the public purpose. With LEE's leadership, I am confident that the Wilson Center will be in good hands and will be responsive to fulfilling its goals. I am also pleased that in this new assignment I will have the opportunity to continue working with LEE.

I wish LEE and Nancy the best for their continued success; LEE in the role of inspiring Americans through the Wilson Center; and Nancy in the world of beauty through art.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman's participation, and yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KIND).

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Indiana for yielding to me. I too want to rise before this body tonight and offer my sincere thanks and congratulations to LEE HAMILTON.

LEE, I was 1 year old when you joined this great body, the United States Congress. Not to date you or anything. As a freshman Member, when I am back home in Western Wisconsin people come up to me and ask me how do you do it, how do you come up to speed with all the procedures and all the substance that you are confronted with out in Washington, D.C. And in a large respect it is by just listening and getting feedback from the people who sent me there to represent them. But I also tell them that as a new Member you seek out role models in this body, people who you can admire and emulate, that you can sit back and watch and listen to, see how they conduct themselves, see how they handle themselves during debate, and sit next to them at times before votes and as policy is starting to develop, especially in the area of foreign policy, and just pick their brains.

And, LEE, I am not too proud to admit tonight to you and to the Nation that you have always been one of my role models as a freshman Member. There have been countless times when I have taken the opportunity, that we so often have in between votes, to sit down next to you and talk to you about events in China, Kosovo, Bosnia or Russia, understanding the wisdom and experience that you bring and insight that you bring to these discussions that we wrestle with day-to-day in the United States Congress.

I have always been amazed at how oftentimes you turn the subject back to me in your questions, about me personally and the family and the children, my athletic career, which too was shortened because of a career-ending injury, and your intense interest on the Wisconsin Badgers. I was not so sure if it was because of your interest in Big 10 football, or if you were just getting a scouting report for Indiana University before the big game.

But I really have admired you and I have appreciated all the advice and counsel you have given me, someone who has an interest in foreign policy,

having studied abroad, in London for a couple of years; having traveled in Europe extensively, Central Europe, North Africa, and realizing the importance that foreign policy decision-making is to this place, the United States Congress.

It is my only hope, LEE, that when I finish my career here, however long the people in Western Wisconsin want me to represent them, that I will have lived up to the very high standard of personal integrity and honor that you have brought to this institution; that you have established while you have been here. I think the Woodrow Wilson Center and Indiana University are extremely lucky to get you, your wisdom, your integrity and your experience with the greatest Democratic institution in the world.

I wish you and your family a very long and very happy retirement. Thank you, LEE.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman's participation and would recognize and yield to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PEASE).

Mr. PEASE. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Indiana for yielding to me, and I rise to add my voice to the chorus commenting on the contributions and virtues of my friend from Indiana, the distinguished Congressman from the 9th district, LEE HAMILTON.

It is typical of us Hoosiers to be obsessed with basketball and politics. Mr. HAMILTON is the quintessential Hoosier, because he has excelled in both. As a high school athlete, he propelled the Evansville Central Golden Bears to the Indiana High School State championship basketball game. And the Bears would have won if the future Congressman had not suffered an injury during the afternoon game.

He was awarded the coveted Trester award, which goes annually to the high school basketball player who has the best mental attitude. It is the most prestigious award conferred on an Indiana high school athlete, and it defines all that is best in sportsmanship and fair play. He went on to DePauw University, a fine institution, coincidentally in my district, where he also excelled in basketball and academics.

He is the son and brother of United Methodist ministers. Perhaps this background is responsible for the strong moral and ethical behavior that he has demonstrated over his lifetime and his career in the House of Representatives. He is well-respected by Members of both major political parties in Indiana.

Mr. HAMILTON and Senator DICK LUGAR make joint appearances in Indiana each year to enlighten the members of the press and others about the current aspects of United States foreign policy. I hope you will forgive my Hoosier pride for my belief that these two gentlemen are among the most knowledgeable Members of Congress on foreign policy issues.

There is no doubt that LEE HAMILTON could have had his party's nomination

in Indiana for governor, for United States Senator, perhaps on more than one occasion. However, his devotion to his work in the United States House of Representatives precluded his accepting those opportunities, which many, though probably none in this chamber, would have thought were promotions.

On a personal note, let me say that Mr. HAMILTON, who came to this House when I was in junior high school, has been an example, a mentor, and a leader, but, most important, a friend to me as a freshman Member of this House. He has helped me professionally, he has supported me personally. His staff has helped mine as they have learned how this place works, and they reflect his professionalism and his ethical action.

LEE, please accept my thanks for all you have done for me, for our State, for our Nation. My best wishes to you and Nancy as you begin a new career, and may God continue to bless your life and your work. I thank the gentleman from Indiana.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, I deeply appreciate the gentleman's participation and would yield to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN).

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding to me, and I guess I have to start off by saying how old I was when LEE HAMILTON was first elected. LEE, I was 10, and it was shortly thereafter, living in Cincinnati, Ohio, in a district that actually borders Mr. HAMILTON's district, we are in Southwestern Ohio, he is in Southeastern Indiana, that I began to hear about LEE HAMILTON.

I worked up here on the Hill briefly for my predecessor, Bill Gradison, and looked up to Mr. HAMILTON as someone of high integrity. And particularly in the foreign policy area, he was deemed, even in those early days, as being truly an expert.

He has been talked about tonight by a lot of people, including the chairman of the Committee on International Relations as an expert on international matters, and he is. Free trade is something that LEE has taken a courageous stand on over the years in that context, and I appreciate what he has done for our country in that regard. He has often stood up against his own party and done what is not necessarily popular politically, whether it is free trade generally or talking about our misguided sanctions policy, because he believes strongly in the fact that through trade we will create jobs and make a better country. He has put the Nation first, I really think, on foreign policy, again and again. And I am one of those who want to stand up here tonight and tell him that we appreciate that.

I got to work with LEE not too long ago on the Tropical Forest Conservation Act. Again, he put the interests of his country first and, frankly, gave us credibility to be able to promote that idea, which is a debt-for-nature swap. It makes all the sense in the world. I then went down with LEE to Santiago, Chile, for the Summit of the Americas,

several months ago, and got to see him in action not only as someone who is highly regarded by the current administration, in terms of his foreign policy expertise, they do turn to him frequently, that is when all the right decisions are made, LEE, I understand, but also by leaders from around the hemisphere. There were 34 presidents there from 34 countries in our hemisphere, and it was amazing the respect that he has among those leaders and among their foreign ministers, their trade ministers and so on. And I got to see that firsthand, LEE, and was greatly impressed.

Again, he came to my aid recently. I told him on that trip to Santiago about an effort underway to try to pay tribute to George Bush, our only President who had served as the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency. And it was LEE HAMILTON who stood up, when needed, and provided a strong bipartisan support for that effort, which I think will probably be enacted into law, LEE, here in the next few weeks. And, again, I personally appreciate what you did there, putting your country first and making sure that this place continues to operate on a bipartisan basis.

One thing I want to mention briefly, if I might, and is something that folks may not be as familiar with about LEE's background and his interests. He has been known, again, as truly one of the most distinguished leaders on foreign policy in this body, but he has also focused on illegal drugs in a very interesting way, not only on the interdiction side, which would make sense, given his focus and his experience, but also in his own back yard, in rural Indiana.

LEE has held meetings throughout rural Indiana, talking with law enforcement officials, talking with parents, talking with school administrators, talking with people in the trenches who are trying to deal with the problem of illegal drugs. He has spearheaded a project called Rural Indiana Profile, a comprehensive study that gives community officials, public officials throughout Indiana a sense of what is going on in our rural communities with regard to the illegal drug problem that is robbing so many of our young people of their dreams, indeed of their lives at times. And, LEE, I want to thank you for that, which is something that probably is not well-known in this body.

He was also a strong supporter of the Drug-Free Communities Act that was signed into law last year because of his recognition that we are not going to solve this problem just by focusing on source country problems, interdiction, but that we also have to look into our own hearts to see what we are doing wrong in our own communities and to begin to change the attitudes of our young people.

Mr. Speaker, my neighbor, LEE HAMILTON, is truly an example of the best in public service. The gentleman from

Wisconsin said earlier that he has been a role model. He certainly should be a model for all of us who have been fortunate enough to serve with him in Congress. I will miss his friendship in Congress. I hope we can stay in touch in his new role at Woodrow Wilson School and at Indiana University. I will miss his common sense. He has the most commonsensical haircut in the United States Congress, incidentally. And I wish him very well in his new responsibilities and also in his renewed responsibilities.

I know he had other opportunities to lead this country and to serve this Nation in very substantial and prestigious ways with the current administration and, instead, chose to remain here, closer to his family, closer to his beloved wife, and so I also wish him luck in his renewed responsibilities as a husband, as a father, and as a grandfather.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman's participation very much, and now yield to the gentlewoman from Indiana (Ms. CARSON).

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank very much the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. VISCLOSKY) for arranging for this special tribute to the Honorable LEE HAMILTON. This tribute is reminiscent of a poet that wrote many years ago that "He shall be like a tree that is planted by the rivers of water that bring forth fruit in its season."

I rise today to pay tribute to a towering figure in the House of Representatives and this Nation, and certainly on behalf of the State of Indiana. It comes as no surprise to those who have observed the Honorable LEE HAMILTON that he is the son and brother of Methodist ministers. In a political world sometimes characterized by dishonesty and backstabbing and inter-party feuding, LEE HAMILTON stands out as a rock of integrity and someone that certainly I have been extremely blessed to have had an opportunity to know even before I became a Member of this distinguished body.

□ 2015

In the 34 years that the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. HAMILTON) has been in the House of Representatives, he has built bonds of trust on both sides of the political aisle, and he can always be counted on to put the country ahead of any partisan political politics.

He is a man of great intellect. He has become perhaps the leading congressional spokesman on our relations with foreign lands and peoples. He also is a leading exemplar of the concept all too rare in Congress today, that politics stops at the water's edge.

The gentleman from Indiana (Mr. HAMILTON) has been a forceful advocate for honor with pragmatism in foreign affairs regardless of which party controls the White House. As chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ranking member of the Committee on International Relations, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. HAMILTON) has been a strong defender of the President's

right to determine foreign policy, but was opposed to Presidents in both parties when he thought they were wrong. He exemplifies the highest degree of courage and commitment to the patriotism that all of us enjoy.

I remember in 1987 Mr. HAMILTON served as House chairman for the committee investigating the Iran-Contra matter. In his post he was stern, but a fair inquisitor in terms of where we were and where we ought to be in that particular situation. He is a firm believer in the rule of law. In the Iran-Contra investigation, he decried the establishment of a government within a government that was not ruled by the democratic process. He has always been guided by his belief that all public officials should be accountable to the law and to the voters.

It is for all of those reasons and certainly more than I could delineate here tonight that I am just happy that I have had an opportunity to stand in the Chamber that the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. HAMILTON) has served so well for so many years. And even though he has chosen not to run again for the House of Representatives, he will always be a Member of the House of Representatives because he will continuously be sought after for his wise advice, especially on foreign affairs.

The gentleman from Indiana (Mr. HAMILTON), in closing, exemplifies what a gentleman's gentleman is like. Andy Jacobs told me a few minutes ago that Mr. HAMILTON has always been a very civil person and very determined and dedicated.

I pay a special tribute to LEE HAMILTON, and certainly to Nancy, as he begins his next life as a scholar and a statesman in the academic community. And I certainly wish him good luck and Godspeed and thank him very much for all that he has done for Americans. It has really been a pleasure to have known him.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. CAMPBELL).

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. Speaker, I have been privileged in preparing my remarks to have the benefit of the wisdom of Mr. Ben Cole, who for many years was the Washington correspondent of the Indianapolis Star and who I have the privilege of calling father-in-law. And Ben told me that in all of his time watching the Members of the House of Representatives from the Hoosier State, there is no one who in commitment to principle, integrity, intelligence, stands out more than the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. HAMILTON).

But passing now to my own remarks, as I say informed by my father-in-law, let me say there has been too much of a note of sadness here about the departure of Mr. HAMILTON from the political world. There should instead be a note of celebration at his admission to the world of professors.

Mr. Speaker, I ask to advise the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. HAMILTON)

that this is a much better world and he has the qualities that will make him a superb teacher. Here is what I see when I make that statement.

First of all, a good teacher knows his subject and the students know it real fast if he does not. And just from what I have seen on the Committee on International Relations, Mr. HAMILTON knows the subject matter. People come to him because they know that he can recite it from memory, he can recite it from his experience, he can recite it because he has studied it. The gentleman from Indiana (Mr. HAMILTON) will be a superb teacher for that reason.

Secondly, students catch on if we are one-sided and they turn off. Nothing is worse than using the platform of a professor to be a proselytizer, and that happens on the right as much as on the left. Mr. HAMILTON does not use that platform to proselytize. As a professor, Mr. HAMILTON will find his students excited and interested because they will know that his point of view is not predetermined as to whether their point of view will be welcome in class discussion or not, but rather that he will be seeking the truth and inspiring them to find the truth through their own processes and their own gifts that God gives them.

And third and last, probably the most important aspect of a good professor is that there be something deep that the student sees, something worth admiring. Any idiot can hand out a grade. What matters is that the students admire the professor because there is something worth admiring in that professor. And that is what all of our colleagues have spoken to tonight. That is why we have as many Republicans as Democrats taking part in this special order.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. HAMILTON's students will see in this teacher a person who went into public life for all the right reasons, who went into the field of international relations in order to do his best for the people whom God made on this earth who may not have as many advantages as those of us with the tremendous privilege of being born in the United States.

I close by commenting with all sincerity that the students of the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. HAMILTON) will see in him a peacemaker whom our Lord has blessed; those who seek peace shall be called the children of God. And they will see in him a man who seeks after justice, who hungers and thirsts for justice, for he will be satisfied.

Mr. Speaker, on the graduation of our colleague the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. HAMILTON) from this institution to the new and in many ways more important institution of teaching, I offer my congratulations and my expectations of continued excellence in every respect.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the participation of the gentleman from California (Mr. CAMPBELL).

I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE).

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I too join my colleagues in praising our friend and colleague, the gentleman from the great State of Indiana (Mr. HAMILTON). I know I speak for other Members in saying that it will be sad to see him leave this place.

As a member of the Committee on International Relations, which Mr. HAMILTON is the ranking member, he has held many hearings, timely hearings succinctly on issues of great concern to American people and people throughout the world.

I thank the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. VISCLOSKY) and the others who have called this special order because I know that the 9th District will be pleased to have Mr. HAMILTON come home. He has developed a reputation here in Congress as a very thoughtful and committed person. To countries going through transition, in particular trying to struggle with democracy and new issues, he has had keen interest in that. He is an independent thinker and treats foe and friend alike.

In some of the hearings, we would hear him question members of the administration, whether it was this current administration or previous administrations run by the other party. And so he is an independent thinker, a person who has served for 33 years in this House.

In 1964 the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. HAMILTON) was elected to Congress at his first attempt at public office, which is a very unique and honorable position to be in. As a matter of fact, it was not until my third attempt that I was able to get here, so I should have studied Mr. HAMILTON's techniques a little earlier before I took the challenge on.

But during his tenure in Congress, he has often been tapped for key leadership positions. In 1993 to 1994, as my colleagues know, he chaired the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, currently serves as our ranking member, and also chaired the House Intelligence Committee, and cochaired the House-Senate Committee which investigated the Iran-Contra affair.

Mr. HAMILTON has taken a lead in working to make Congress more effective. In 1991 he sponsored legislation to create a joint committee on the organization of Congress. Under his leadership, this committee recommended major reforms to Congress, a number of which have been adopted, and he continues to push vigorously for enactment of further reforms.

His leadership on the Joint Economic Committee has allowed Mr. HAMILTON to give even greater emphasis to some of the key interests in Congress, ensuring a sound and healthy economy and promoting economic development. Through his continuing service on the panel, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. HAMILTON) has held many hearings and discussions on economic challenges

facing the 9th District, and he has worked long to improve education and job training and the infrastructure in southern Indiana.

I am pleased to hear that he will not go far from issues of real concern to all of us, as he will be appointed as the new director of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. He will continue the legacy that he left behind and will continue to work for all the people of the world.

I have enjoyed working with him. I know during 1992, when we had to reduce our standing committees or our subcommittees in the Committee on International Affairs from 8 to 6, I was very interested in the fact that I wanted the Subcommittee on Africa to remain as a standing subcommittee, and working with Mr. HAMILTON, working with other members of the committee, we were able to preserve it during that cut and even further when we reduced the number of subcommittees to five. And it has been his support that has allowed us to continue to move forward.

So I wish him well in his retirement. I started as a teacher and tried to come to Congress. He came to Congress and will end as a teacher. And so I do want to compliment him again for his success.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I appreciate the remarks of the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE), and I do have some concern based on the comments made by the gentleman from California (Mr. CAMPBELL) about Mr. HAMILTON's impact on academic politics, but I guess only history will tell the story.

Mr. Speaker, before I conclude my remarks, I would simply reference several essays that the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. HAMILTON) wrote a number of years ago about the influence of religion on politics. I have kept those theses that Mr. HAMILTON prepared, and was struck by the theme of both articles, and that is his abhorrence of those who are intolerant to others' ideas and the civility in which he connoted that we ought to, again, respect our differences of opinion, seek a responsible middle ground, and recognize that we have a country to govern in a moral perspective and that we ought to balance those two interests. I think it represents the gentleman that Mr. HAMILTON is and every good thing that that term connotes.

Mrs. NORTHUP. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be here today to honor LEE HAMILTON, who has served this distinguished body for 33 years.

Divided only by the Ohio river, his district of Southern Indiana and my district of Louisville, Kentucky have shared a great deal together: The tribulations of the river flooding, the highs and lows of economic success, and the community spirit which makes Kentuckiana what it is today.

LEE HAMILTON is a part of that spirit.

While his talents have served his district and mine, his work on international issues has made him well known and well respected worldwide.

As the former chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and now the ranking member of the House Committee on International Relations, LEE has represented our country with the utmost dignity and dedication to helping others internationally, while maintaining our nation's place in international affairs.

Although he has served this Congress for many years and in the role of both the majority and the minority, LEE has always been able to work on a bipartisan nature.

Last year, I had an opportunity to work with LEE on a project that would help bring our districts even closer by providing the infrastructure needed to cross the Ohio River. Although we may be from different political parties, and even though he had been here many years and I was just a freshman, LEE HAMILTON treated me with the same respect as he has treated more senior members.

For this, I will always admire and respect him.

Mr. Speaker, it is only appropriate that we honor LEE HAMILTON today to thank him for his service and to wish him the best in the future. His presence in Congress will be missed by his colleagues and his district.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, few of our former colleagues can claim, upon retirement, to have had a profoundly positive impact on the House of Representatives, but LEE HAMILTON is clearly one of them. His fairness and professionalism as a committee chairman, his leadership on trade and foreign policy issues, and his respect for the institutions of government are attributes that I strive to emulate in my day-to-day work as a Member of Congress.

Serving with LEE on the Joint Committee on the Organization of Congress in 1993 was a particularly rewarding experience, and I value our resulting friendship. Although our reform efforts did not meet with immediate success, LEE's leadership was instrumental to our later success in adopting a number of significant institutional reforms with strong bipartisan support.

Commentators regulatory highlight the partisanship that so often prevails on Capitol Hill these days. LEE is certainly a good Democrat, but he understands the value and importance of listening to other people's ideas, even if they come from Republicans. Our Joint Committee was evenly balanced between Democrats and Republicans and I can attest that LEE gave everybody a chance to be heard. He found friends and allies on both sides of the aisle.

I know I speak for many of our colleagues in saying that LEE's decision to retire at the end of this Congress is more than a personal loss. The institution will be losing one of its most respected Members and effective advocates. At a time when citizens generally view Congress skeptically and many of our colleagues feed their skepticism and even cynicism by blaming Congress for things that go wrong, no one has stood up more for the institution than LEE HAMILTON.

Fortunately, when LEE retires from Congress at the end of this year, he will remain close by as a result of his new career as director of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. There, he will undertake a project to combat public cynicism toward and distrust of Congress. I am confident that he will do an outstanding job, I look forward to playing a role in making the project an enormous success.

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in honoring LEE HAMILTON, a man who has rendered thirty three years of distinguished service as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives.

It was nearly two years ago that I, as a freshman member of Congress, first met LEE HAMILTON. Having been newly assigned to the House International Relations Committee, LEE HAMILTON was there to assist me during my very first days on the committee. And whether it has been learning more about the foreign policy challenges facing America, or working to build a consensus to support American efforts to bring peace abroad, LEE HAMILTON has always been there for me and the Democrats who serve on the International Relations Committee.

For all his work to enhance and advance American interests abroad, LEE HAMILTON deserves our enduring thanks. He has been a champion of U.S. engagement abroad, fighting this fight, often in the face of isolationists here in this very Congress.

I wish LEE HAMILTON the best as he takes leave of this body. I know that I and my colleagues on the House International Relations Committee, both Democrat and Republican, will miss his remarkable contributions, not only to our committee, but to the entire Congress and to our entire nation. LEE HAMILTON is and will continue to be a leading voice on foreign affairs.

Mr. Speaker, over eight decades ago President Woodrow Wilson remarked that "there must be, not a balance of power [in the world], but a community of power; not organized rivalries, but an organized peace." LEE HAMILTON, to his credit, has worked to advance this goal like no other member of Congress during his 18 terms in the House of Representatives. For that our nation is eternally grateful.

Mr. SKAGGS. Mr. Speaker, when the gentleman from Indiana retires at the end of this session of Congress, this body will be losing one of its most thoughtful leaders.

LEE HAMILTON will be rightly lionized as an expert and a statesman in foreign policy matters; a Member whose thinking is consistently sought out to illuminate foreign policy debates. During his tenure on the International Relations Committee, he has brought a reasoned and careful approach to foreign policy. He's been irrepressibly constructive, keeping in mind the longer-range goal of leading Congress and the country along the path of international engagement where he knew we needed to go. He's never shrunk from being one of the few to stand up against popular but wrong-headed policies, even if that meant being on the losing end of a very lop-sided vote. He has been even-handed in the hard cases in foreign policy, such as U.S. policy toward the Middle East, or Cuba.

This body will also be losing a Member who cares deeply about the institutions of government, particularly Congress and its role under the Constitution. He played a leading role in one of Congress' best hours in recent years—the 1991 debate about whether to go to war with Iraq. He led the inquiry into the Iran-Contra scandal—an abuse that threatened our Constitutional order more than any in recent years. He led the panel in the 103rd Congress that resulted in important institutional reforms, including the gift ban and the application of workplace rules to Congress, that were implemented in the next Congress. LEE served as

Chairman of the Intelligence Committee and of the Joint Economic Committee. He has been a workhorse on often unheralded projects, like the panel that reviewed government secrecy.

While focusing on Congress' role in foreign policy, LEE has also been mindful that Congress should not encroach on powers and responsibilities that are properly the President's. He has often worked to be sure that Congress' zeal on a particular issue does not tie the President's hands and impair the flexibility he needs in conducting our foreign policy.

LEE HAMILTON is a serious legislator, and a work-aholic. He is never too busy to discuss issues at length with other Members—or with his constituents. With all the time he spends on the big picture and on U.S. foreign policy, LEE has never forgotten the people of Indiana's 9th Congressional District. At a time when more and more Members are abandoning town meetings, LEE has continued to see the value in that kind of direct contact with the people he serves, hosting several meetings each year in the 20 counties of the 9th.

LEE HAMILTON is irreplaceable. He is a role model others can aspire to follow. I hope the 106th Congress will see Members of LEE HAMILTON's stature. But if it doesn't, it will have the benefit of his example and his legacy.

At a time when Washington desperately needs all the grown-ups we can find, LEE HAMILTON has been a reliable adult. We all join in thanking LEE for his exemplary public service and wishing all the best.

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, LEE HAMILTON is a tall order to follow. I am not making allusions to his height, although he is a tall man. But he stands tall in so many other ways. He is the conscience of America's foreign policy. He is the soul of dignity in politics. He is an institutional memory of the Congress. He is the epitome of clear, concise thinking and reasoning.

LEE HAMILTON is also the Dean of my State's delegation. He has been and remains to me an inspiration, a mentor, and a true friend. I will miss his presence here dearly.

Mr. Speaker, five decades ago, a young athlete at Evansville Memorial High School gained a reputation for dogged hard work, dedication, and perseverance. This student, LEE HAMILTON, would maintain the same reputation in the congressional career that began 16 years later, and keep it for over 30 years. When I first arrived here nearly 8 years ago, LEE was here to show me the many ropes. His quiet dignity, hard work, and keen knowledge of the issues has been a fine example every day since.

LEE has a talent for respecting the past while building the future, for defending and maintaining what is good in the world, and educating colleagues and citizens about what must change. He is a traditional man with conservative instincts, yet can still inspire young people and new Members with ideas about the future. Like the best thinkers of any generation, LEE teaches us that progressive ideas work best on solid foundations.

It is sad to reflect on the loss of talent that LEE HAMILTON's departure brings to the Congress. LEE is the epitome of bedrock values, straightforward thinking, and most of all, Hoosier common sense. He leaves a gap that will not be filled easily or soon.

Mr. Speaker, I join all of our colleagues in saluting LEE HAMILTON and his wife, Nancy, their children and family. I wish them all the

very best for the future. I want LEE to know that following in his shoes is, for me, a very tall order. But LEE set such a good example, and has been such a good teacher, that he has given us all a very tall head start. I sincerely am indebted to him, as is the Nation, for his service, his leadership, and his dedication. I will have very few such friends in this life, indeed.

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my thanks to one of our nation's tireless advocates of responsible and thoughtful American foreign policy. LEE HAMILTON is known around the world for the critical role he has played in shaping our relations with other countries.

But his also is a familiar hand in guiding our country's domestic initiatives, and by adding his strong voice to so many noble causes, LEE has ensured that the voices of millions of Americans have been heard.

LEE's name is recognized all over the world—in the powerful circles in New York, Geneva, Rome, Beijing, and Tokyo—and it is synonymous with integrity. His work has left its mark in other places too, because it has made a real difference to countless millions who lack power and, often, hope. Most recently, he made sure that the Freedom to Farm Act of 1996 included provisions for hungry and poor people.

Mr. Speaker, LEE HAMILTON is a legend in this Congress, and in our capitol. He was a work horse, chairing the House Foreign Affairs Committee, the Intelligence Committee, the Iran-Contra Committee, and undertaking countless other assignments that are essential to an effective Congress.

The tremendous strides we have made in almost every measurement of poverty have come during LEE HAMILTON'S tenure, and many of them bear evidence of his involvement. For example, the number of people who die every day of hunger and its related diseases is just half what it was when he first came to Congress. At 24,000 a day, that number is still tragically high, but initiatives that bear Lee's fingerprints are continuing to lessen such suffering.

And that is just one example. From infant mortality, to teaching literacy, to fighting disease, the people of the world have made unprecedented strides in the past three decades. Throughout this era, LEE HAMILTON has often been at the center of the battles that matter most: the struggles to ease suffering and make life better from millions of people.

Mr. Speaker, these are difficult times for the Congress, especially when we take up foreign policy. It is hard to imagine our debates without LEE HAMILTON'S measured contributions to them. It is harder still to assure our allies abroad that without LEE HAMILTON Congress will remain a reasonable partner in efforts to deal with the political and economic challenges ahead.

For many of us who have spent our careers in Congress secure in the knowledge that we can always turn to this senior statesman to improve our understanding or polish our approach, LEE'S retirement will be a personal loss. It has been an honor to serve with you, LEE, and you will be missed.

I join my colleagues in wishing LEE HAMILTON all the best, in thanking him for his dedicated service, and in appealing for his continued presence as we debate how America can best serve the people we represent in both our foreign policy and domestic policy.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to LEE HAMILTON who is retiring from the House after 34 years of exemplary service. The House is losing its most respected voice on foreign policy issues, and for that the institution will be poorer.

LEE began his service in 1965, after winning election to the Congress in his first attempt. He has served the people of the Ninth District well, and they have returned him to Washington in every election since. That's a pretty good streak and it reflects the winning tradition that LEE established early in life, beginning with his leadership of Central High's basketball team all the way to the State championship.

During his tenure in Congress, LEE was often tapped to lead in very difficult situations. In 1986, he co-chaired the Iran-Contra investigation and in 1992 he chaired the Joint Committee on the Organization of Congress.

But his expertise in foreign policy rose to the fore and he was rewarded with the chairmanship of the Foreign Affairs Committee during the 103rd Congress. LEE has always led the sometimes lonely fight for the Clinton administration's policies but he has never shied away from letting the President know when the policy was wrong.

LEE's tenure on the Joint Economic Committee allowed him to pursue his interests in ensuring a sound economy and promoting economic development in order to bring economic and infrastructure development to the people of the Ninth District.

Mr. Speaker, we wish LEE well in his new roles at the Wilson Center and with Indiana University and we hope that we can continue to call on his expertise, as the Congress deals with future foreign policy issues.

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the service to the United States of America by Mr. LEE H. HAMILTON.

In my 16 years in the House of Representatives I have come to know and admire LEE for the wisdom and seriousness which he brings to consideration of the people's business. The Hoosiers of the Ninth District lose a great congressman with LEE's retirement.

In 34 years few can challenge his record for thoughtful integrity in the face of strong political pressure. While confronting some of the nation's most serious foreign policy challenges, he always approached every issue with intellectual depth.

He led the Congress in defending the President when under partisan attack, but he worked hard to ensure that the administration did not make foreign policy decisions without full consideration of every option and insisted that action be taken only after the administration had developed a rationale for its policy which would have the support of the American people.

His reputation for probity and judicious reflection have made him the leader of choice when the Congress faced difficult foreign policy issues, whether as chairman of the Select Committee on Iran-Contra or more recently of the Select Subcommittee on Iran Arms Transfers to Bosnia. I have had the honor of serving with Mr. HAMILTON on one of those select committees and seen first hand how the nation has been well assisted by his probing intellect.

I have also been proud to serve with Mr. HAMILTON when he was chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee. In his years as chairman, he demonstrated again and again the

ability to forge the type of bipartisan political coalition essential to making government work for the people. LEE had a instinctive understanding that democracy was more important than politics and that he was elected to serve all the people, rather than a narrow agenda agreeable to the few.

The Ninth District has lost a great Representative in the retirement of Mr. HAMILTON. We honor more than Mr. HAMILTON today, we honor the principles which he has stood for against so many pressures for so long. I wish I could say that in losing Mr. HAMILTON, some are gaining more but I am afraid that his retirement is the country's loss.

I thank you for your service to the Congress and the American people. I salute you. I will miss you on the committee but I know you will not have gone far and we will continue to benefit from your expertise on foreign policy at the Wilson Center.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, it is truly a pleasure for me to join our colleagues in paying tribute to our colleague and my friend, Congressman LEE H. HAMILTON of Indiana, for his distinguished service to our nation as a Member of Congress for 34 years. I can think of few members who can rival his intelligence, wit, integrity, and commitment to public service.

For the past 18 years that I have been a Member of this body, I have served on the House Committee on Foreign Affairs/International Relations, and during that entire time I have served with LEE HAMILTON. For well over a decade, I sat next to him on the Subcommittee on Europe and the Middle East, which LEE chaired for two decades. When LEE served as chairman of the full Committee on Foreign Affairs, I headed one of the subcommittees, and in that capacity we worked closely together for two years.

Mr. Speaker, it has been truly an honor to serve with LEE over these many years, and to admire his commitment to democracy and America's international interests in the broadest and most positive sense. From the cold war to the collapse of the Iron Curtain to the serious challenges of the post-cold-war world, LEE has stood as a pillar of principle in defending the values that we in America cherish. In combating world hunger, firmly backing foreign assistance to the developing democracies in Eastern Europe, and fighting for developing programs for sustainable development in Africa, he has never hesitated to use his superb intellect and creativity to address our national concerns. Even when we have disagreed on policy matters, I have found it impossible to keep from admiring his independence, integrity, and moral conviction underlying his beliefs. LEE HAMILTON is a statesman, a leader, a champion for the American people.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to say something about LEE's wife, Nancy Hamilton. Of all of LEE's many good decisions, his judgment in marrying Nancy was probably his best. She has been a steadfast and dependable companion throughout his service in the Congress. She has not only brightened LEE's office with her outstanding and original art, she has added an air of elegance and quality to all that LEE has done.

While I have no doubt that LEE will continue to serve our country and the state of Indiana even though he will be retiring from the U.S. Congress. I believe that I speak for all of my colleagues in the House when I say that LEE's

voice of reason and the integrity that he brings to our deliberations will be sorely missed.

Mr. Speaker, we all owe the people of southeastern Indiana an enormous debt of gratitude for giving us LEE HAMILTON.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise to pay tribute to my esteemed colleague, LEE HAMILTON, as he retires from the House of Representatives after 34 years of service to Indiana's Ninth District, and to our Nation.

LEE HAMILTON arrived in Washington to begin his long tenure in the House during the Lyndon Johnson administration. As those times demanded, he was present for the creation of such landmark legislation as the Elementary and Secondary and Higher Education Acts, helping assure an educated citizenry so that the socio-economic needs of this country might be met. He also presided over the enactment of legislation to assist those living at or below poverty—especially the children—as Johnson's War on Poverty began, and the President's Great Society began to take shape.

LEE HAMILTON was here in 1965 when the Medicare Program for senior citizens health care was enacted, lifting many seniors out of poverty once they no longer had to choose between paying for health care and eating, providing seniors with a healthier, quality life of hope and dignity.

There was much going on in this House when LEE HAMILTON arrived from Jeffersonville, Indiana to begin his service as the representative of the Ninth District of that great state, and aside from domestic issues, LEE was soon to become deeply involved in international issues as well.

As LEE HAMILTON's distinguished service grew and flourished on behalf of those who needed federal support in order to obtain an education, food, shelter and health care, he quietly became our most able leader in International affairs. As the chair of the International Relations Committee for many years, and as its current ranking member, LEE has devoted himself to leading this country through the cold war, helping bring about the fall of the Berlin Wall and the dissolution of the former Soviet Union and the Communist threat.

LEE HAMILTON too great care to help ensure America's security in an unsafe world.

LEE's lifetime commitment to public service, under the administrations of seven Presidents from both parties, has never faltered. His enormous achievements are a testament to a remarkable life of selfless duty and an unstinting commitment to the peace and prosperity of the people of Indiana as well as our Nation, for which we owe him a great debt of gratitude.

LEE is known for his unimpeachable integrity, his gentle voice of reason, and a firm hand, and I have personally benefited from both his reason and his strength.

I take this opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to publicly thank LEE for his assistance to me over the years with concerns I have had over events in the Middle East, and especially in the land of my grandfathers, Lebanon. His deep understanding of the culture, history and traditions of the Middle Eastern countries is enormous. I know there have been many times over the years when, at my request and no matter how busy he was, he has taken the time to share with me and my colleagues his remarkable insight into how best to address

events in a troubled area in times of great distress.

I thank him also for his direct assistance to me as I have endeavored to bring humanitarian and non-lethal military assistance into Lebanon as that country struggles to return to its former state of independence and sovereignty after a 17 year civil war.

And so it is with warmest personal regard, highest esteem and deepest appreciation that I rise to pay tribute to LEE HAMILTON as he takes his leave of this House where he has served with distinction for more than three decades. I wish him God Speed, and great personal happiness and success as he embarks upon his newly chosen career path.

Mr. LUTHER. Mr. Speaker, the House of Representatives will lose one of its most respected members with the retirement of LEE HAMILTON. As a junior member of the International Relations Committee, I have come to greatly admire LEE's evenhanded and bipartisan approach. At a time when far too often questions of foreign policy become mired in partisan battles, I believe it is essential that we continue LEE's tireless efforts to achieve bipartisanship on international relations matters.

Because of his extraordinary leadership in foreign affairs, many people don't realize LEE's many other significant accomplishments. For example, he was among the first to call on Congress to reform its internal operations. In 1992 he served as co-chairman of the Joint Committee on the Organization of Congress which was among the first to recommend long overdue ideas, which we now take for granted, such as the gift ban, tightening lobbying regulations and applying laws of the workplace to Congress.

Coming from Minnesota where we have had great leaders like Hubert Humphrey, Walter Mondale and former Congressman Don Fraser, I have been particularly impressed with LEE's leadership on international issues. Just one current example is his highlighting the many negative effects that the proliferation of unilateral economic sanctions have had on our relationship with our economic allies. As many of you know, LEE is the lead House author of legislation which would establish a more disciplined and deliberative process for imposing unilateral sanctions.

I am going to miss LEE HAMILTON not just because he is an excellent leader on foreign policy and an admirable person, but because he is the kind of person we need more of in Congress. A person truly dedicated to making government work better for our employers, the people we represent. As a relatively new person to this institution, I sincerely thank him for the guidance he has given me and for his outstanding service to the people of our country and the world.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend LEE HAMILTON for his 34 years of service to the House of Representatives and our great Nation. LEE HAMILTON is one of the greatest statesmen of our time and I am honored to be able to count LEE HAMILTON as a friend, fellow Democrat, role model, and inspiration. Through his hard work, dedication, sensitivity, and strong ethical underpinnings; LEE HAMILTON has forged a path in the U.S. House that all politicians strive to duplicate.

LEE is one of the most influential policy makers of this century, both domestically and internationally. This is not by accident—his hard work and determined spirit, coupled with

his strong efforts to promote ethical behavior in those that govern, has distinguished him as an exemplary statesman and policy maker, a positive role model not only to those of us in Washington, but for our Nation and future generations.

LEE has excelled as a U.S. leader at the forefront of world affairs by distinguishing himself as a thoughtful policy maker, with a strong understanding of the difficult issues that effect the world political environment. To name but a few examples: His support of the Middle East peace process over the entirety of his career and his leadership in initiating and crafting U.S. aid to the former Soviet Union in the late 1980's and early 1990's has helped to craft the social, political, and economic environment of both of these regions.

But probably the most important contribution LEE has made to this House is the contribution he has made to the foreign affairs debate over the last three decades. LEE has been instrumental in not only addressing the important issues; but in bringing the foreign policy debate to a new level. He has served to broaden Members' understanding of the issues through his careful review of these issues. LEE has impacted the foreign affairs agenda for an entire generation of Americans—for both Congressman, political leaders, and individual citizens.

LEE HAMILTON stands for all that is good about the American political system. It has been an honor to serve with him and follow his example of ethical behavior, dedication to the American people, the determination to bring and keep important issues at the forefront of the national American debate. LEE's contribution to this House will be sorely missed, but luckily in his new capacity as director of the Woodrow Wilson Center, we in Congress will be able to continue to rely on his valuable contributions to the foreign policy debate.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, if there is a Member who deserves recognition for his years of service to his constituents, to the country, and to this institution—it is LEE HAMILTON.

Throughout his distinguished career as a Representative from the Ninth District of Indiana, LEE has challenged generations of Members to research the issues, make them their own, to defend their positions with vigor—even if that position meant being philosophically and fundamentally opposed to LEE's views.

LEE and I have certainly had our fair share of disagreements on U.S. foreign policy, in particular, when it came to the best approach to bring about freedom and democracy to the Cuban people. However, he was always respectful of differing views, advocating open, comprehensive, and frequent—very frequent—debate.

LEE has been more than a participant in the formulation of foreign policy. He is truly dedicated to studying the nuances of world events. He excels in times of crises and thrives on analyzing the potential impact of global developments on U.S. national security.

Whether the issue is the proliferation of chemical and biological weapons, or climate change and the Kyoto Protocol, or reform in Latin America or NATO enlargement, we have grown to expect LEE HAMILTON to know every intricacy and to be able to encapsulate the contending approaches.

While he may be leaving this body, I am certain his involvement in foreign affairs will continue. We would not want it any other way.

We are all the better for having had LEE HAMILTON as a Member of this body for over three decades.

He is a scholar, an exemplary public servant, a formidable adversary, and a gentleman. LEE, you will be missed.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is certainly my honor to yield to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. HAMILTON), our leader in the Indiana delegation.

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. And of course, first I want to express my appreciation to my friends and Indiana colleagues, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) and the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. VISCLOSKY), for making arrangements for this special order. I am most grateful to them.

Secondly, I want to express my thanks to all of the Members who have spoken and a large number of Members who have submitted their statements to me, many of which I have had an opportunity to read.

I must say that the constant references to my age and the references to how young they were when I first came to Congress have made me feel a little uneasy tonight, but it has impressed me about how young the Members of this institution are and how able they are as well.

All of their remarks have been very kind and generous, and of course for me memorable. I shall think very often of this evening and the comments that have been made about me. I have always wanted to walk off the stage before I was kicked off or shoved off, and I think their comments tonight have made me think I have done that.

I had the Library of Congress check the other day, and I have worked with 1,515 House colleagues. I guess with most of those colleagues I have had differences from time to time, but I think I can say that I have liked all of them, I have enjoyed their friendship, and I have certainly tried to respect them.

The Members of this House reflect the American people I believe more than any other institution in America, at least so far as I know. Getting to know the Members has been just an extraordinary privilege. The recollections of my colleagues form in my mind an endless line of splendor. Working with them has given me insights into the vastness and the complexity and the diversity of this country. It has reinforced my belief in representative government and the crucial role that Congress plays in reflecting the diverse points of view, acting as a national forum in this room, managing conflict in the country, and over time, usually but not always, developing a consensus that reflects the collective judgment of the people.

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I have been impressed almost daily with the enormous importance and resilience of the institution of the Congress and the Members who make up this body. It has always been a source of great pride for me to say, as I have

done on so many occasions, that I am a Member of the House of Representatives.

So it has been a great privilege to work in this chamber and in this Capitol building in the area of my interest, which is public policy. I have been grateful for every day that I have been part of this House. I do not know of any place in the world that I would have preferred to be.

I am pleased that this evening my colleagues, for whom I have the greatest respect and affection, have noted my work, and I thank you all.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the special order just given.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Indiana?

There was no objection.

EFFECTS OF HURRICANE GEORGES ON THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTIAN-GREEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. CHRISTIAN-GREEN. Mr. Speaker, before I begin, I would like to join my colleagues in adding my commendations, gratitude and well-wishes to the gentleman from Indiana (LEE HAMILTON) and Mrs. Hamilton as he returns from this House.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise to inform the House of the relative good fortune fared by my constituents when the Virgin Islands was hit by Hurricane Georges last Monday. We are sure it is only through prayers and the grace of God that the storm downgraded from a category 4 to a 2 before it passed over our islands, and the eye, which was to have traversed my home Island of St. Croix, shifted and instead passed between the islands. Thus we were spared the widespread devastation suffered by many of our neighboring Caribbean islands.

By all accounts, the Virgin Islands and Virgin Islanders responded well to the challenges presented to us by Hurricane Georges. As of midday last Wednesday morning, less than 48 hours after Georges, life was almost back to normal on the island of St. Thomas. Although we were and still have power outages, the resilient island of St. Croix has held its own. We suffered no deaths directly attributable to the storm and no major injuries on any of our islands.

Despite the fact that over all the islands only suffered mild damage, we must not forget that there are those individuals who suffered significant damage to their homes and businesses. Some hotels and shops suffered minor damages, but most have remained in-

tact and open for business. Crop and fruit farmers suffered total losses, and livestock farmers and fishermen were also severely affected. Many public buildings suffered moderate damage and curtailed services, but our hospitals and health department facilities stood up well and no services were disrupted there.

Mr. Speaker, while I rise tonight to give thanks for our good fortune in the Virgin Islands, I must also ask my colleagues to continue to pray and support the people of the other Caribbean islands, as well as the residents of South Florida and the Gulf Coast, who were not as lucky as we were.

On our sister U.S. island of Puerto Rico, at least three people were directly killed by the storm and damages surpassed nearly \$2 billion. Likewise, in the Dominican Republic and Haiti, over 300 persons have been reported dead and damages have been estimated in excess of \$1 billion.

I look forward to joining our First Lady and my other colleagues tomorrow to view firsthand their damages and early recovery efforts and to bring the prayers, support and good wishes of this House, as well as of their sisters and brothers from my district and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

While we must express our concern and extend aid to the residents of the larger Caribbean islands of Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic and Haiti, we must not forget our smaller neighbors to the south, like Antigua and St. Kitts, which also suffered serious devastation from Georges. On Antigua, two persons lost their lives and hundreds of homes lost their roofs. Similarly devastated was St. Kitts, where 3 persons were reported dead and 85 percent of the homes on the island were reported damaged. The residents of these smaller islands also need our help.

Mr. Speaker, I must also thank director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, James Lee Witt, and his entire Washington headquarters and Virgin Islands field office staff for the opportunity to participate in all of the relevant briefings and for their immeasurable assistance in keeping us informed of the status of the storm and the extent of the damage we suffered once the storm had passed.

On this latter point, I want to particularly thank Barbara Russell of FEMA and her team who rode out the storm in the Virgin Islands and provided early information as well as critical help in damage assessment and coordination of the initial response. Special commendations to Colonel Gene Walker, his assistant, Elroy Harrison, the entire VITEMA staff and Emergency Service Coordinating Team for their preparation and response, and to the hundreds of volunteers who gave up their time to help. We especially thank President Clinton for his immediate response to our request for disaster assistance, and he and Mrs. Clinton for their concern, as well as the Members of his cabinet.

One of the most difficult aspects of experiencing a hurricane is not being able to obtain information about an affected area when long distance phone service has been disrupted, as it was in our case. I especially want to thank my Washington office staff for their tireless work in keeping Virgin Islanders and others here on the mainland informed on how their relatives and friends in the islands were faring.

My Washington office was open around the clock from the point when we were certain on Monday the 21st that we were going to be hit and for 72 hours afterward. In addition to fielding telephone calls, we were pleased to be able to inform business people, students, friends and relatives of Virgin Islanders viewing the storm via mainland media through press conferences and interviews on TV and radio, as well as providing the most reliable information through several Internet sources, including our own web site. I also want to thank the many Virgin Islanders who came to my office to assist.

Mr. Speaker, the Virgin Islands is a testament to the effectiveness of mitigation, for without the many improvements made in the wake of the major storms of the last nine years, we would not have been able to bounce back. We still have work to be done and that needs to be addressed.

Today the Virgin Islands are back, businesses are open and we welcome you. Our hotels, our beaches, our tropical breezes and the warm hospitality of our people welcome you back to our shores.

TRIBUTE TO BONNIE LOIS KELLY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I will not take the full 60 minutes. I will just take a few minutes here tonight to talk about my mother, Bonnie Lois Kelly. She was born in February 1920, and she died last Wednesday. We had the funeral on Saturday.

She was one of those unique individuals that never gets much attention, but she did a tremendous job in raising three children through a great deal of hardship. She was five feet and one-half inch tall, but, to me and my brother and sister, she was ten times that height.

She married when she was 18 to a brutal person, my father, who was 6-foot-8 and who terrorized her and my brother and sister and I for 12 long years. I can remember during all that time, every time that my father started to mistreat me or my sister or my brother, she would stand between us and take the body blows and stand up for us, no matter what the cost, and many times the cost was almost her life. She finally was able to get away from him when I was 12 years old, after 13 years of married torture.